

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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R 271953Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7594

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 0953

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : CI, CASC

SUBJ: ACTIVITIES OF CHICAGO GROUP

1. SUMMARY. CHICAGO GROUP GENERALLY MAINTAINED ONLY LIMITED CONTACT WITH EMBASSY DURING WEEK-LONG STAY IN SANTIAGO. POST KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR OTHER ACTIVITIES IN SANTIAGO, THEREFORE, NOT COMPLETE. END SUMMARY.

2. CONTACT BETWEEN MEMBERS OF CHICAGO GROUP AND EMBASSY WAS GENERALLY SLIGHT DURING THEIR ONE-WEEK STAY IN SANTIAGO. IN ADDITION TO GROUP'S FEB 18 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR (SANTIAGO 787 AND SANTIAGO A-43) AND MR. TERUGGI'S CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR AND CONSULAR OFFICERS (SANTIAGO 878) AND WITH EMBOFF MCNALLY (MEMCON POUCH TO DEPT.), ONLY OTHER SUBSTANTIVE CONTACT BETWEEN MEMBERS OF GROUP WAS MEETING OF FOUR (FEINGLASS, DEMAIO, FOX, LANGFORD) WITH LABATT NIXON AND EMBOFF DAVIDOW.

3. LATTER MEETING DEALT WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT STATE OF LABOR UNIONS IN PRE-AND POST-COUP CHILE AS WELL AS GENERAL DISCUSSION OF CHILEAN POLITICAL SCENE. THOUGH CONVERSATION AMICABLE, GROUP MEMBERS APPEARED TO BE MOST INTERESTED IN PRESSING VIEW THAT US EMBASSY SHOULD PRESSURE GOC ON HUMAN AND LABOR RIGHTS ISSUES (MEMCON POUCH TO DEPT FEB 27). AFTER INITIAL MEETING WITH
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AMBASSADOR, EMBASSY HAD NO FURTHER CONTACT WITH HALF OF GROUP

INCLUDING FATHER GRANT. WITH EXCEPTION OF MR. TERUGGI NO GROUP MEMBER SOUGHT TO MEET WITH AMBASSADOR AFTER FEB 18 MEETING.

4. GOC FONOFF LIAISON OFFICER ARRANGED FOR GROUP MEMBERS TO MEET WITH UNDER SECRETARY OF JUSTICE MAX SILVA WHO IN TURN ALLOWED THEM TO VISIT ESTADIO CHILE AND CONVERSE WITH APPROXIMATELY 100 DETAINEES HOUSED THERE. THOSE WHO VISITED DETENTION CENTER REPORTED THAT THEY WERE ALLOWED FULL ACCESS TO PREISONERS, STATED DETAINEES WERE BEING WELL TREATED ALTHOUGH SOME APPARENTLY CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN TORTURED PREVIOUSLY. MEMBERS WHO SPOKE WITH UNDER SECRETARY SILVA IMPRESSED WITH HIM PERSONALLY BUT NOT WITH ARGUMENTS CONCERNING CONSTITUTIONALITY OF DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGES. FONOFF LIAISON ALSO ARRANGED FOR TRIP TO SANTIAGO LEATHER FACTORY AND EL TENIENTE COPPER MINE. WAY FOR TERUGGI'S MEETING WITH MININT BONILLA PROBABLY PAVED BY FONOFF CONTACT WITH THAT MINISTRY SINCE PRIOR TO GROUP'S ARRIVAL FONOFF LIASON OFFICER HAD TOLD US BONILLA WILLING TO MEET WITH GROUP.

5. OWING TO GENERALLY SLIGHT CONTACT WITH GROUP MEMBERS, EMBASSY NOT FULLY AWARE OF THEIR OTHER ACTIVITIES, THOUGH WE DO KNOW THAT FEINGLASS MET WITH PRESIDENT OF SANTIAGO JEWISH COMMUNITY AND THAT HE, DEMAIO AND FOX MET WITH SOME LEFTIST TRADE UNIONISTS. MEETING WHICH LABATT NIXON HAD SET UP FOR MEMBERS OF GROUP WITH PDC LABOR LEADERS FELL THROUGH WHEN GROUP MEMBERS FAILED TO SHOW AT APPOINTED TIME. MR. TERUGGI APPARENTLY OPERATED INDEPENDENTLY FROM MOST OF GROUP THOUGH HE WAS ACCOMPAINED AT TIMES BY MS. LANGFORD AND PERHAPS OTHERS, AS WELL AS BY SANTIAGO-BASED CBS STRINGER FRANK MANITAS. POPPER

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